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TO: *Mr. Thuy V. Tran*

FROM: *C. R. STEVENS*

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RE:

COMMENTS:

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Mr. Thuy V. Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2821
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Re: Serial No. 10/642,943 and 10/642,944

Dear Mr. Tran:

Thank you very much for the detailed attention you have given my patent applications. Your comments have been very helpful.

Referring to SN 10/642,943: You have combined claims 2 and 3 into claim 1 for a single independent claim. I would like to request that only claim 2 be merged in to claim 1 to form an independent claim and claim 3 be left as dependent on claim 1. None of the cited references show any data gathering connection from the controlling device to the power line input. If claim 3 is included as part of claim 1 the invention is restricted to only a certain type of data, the absence of a portion of the input wave form. The same thing would apply to claim 4 being combined with claim 5 for an independent claim with claim 6 dependent on claim 4.

I would also like to add two claims, which I have labeled 9 and 10 for now to avoid confusion. They are the same as new claims 1 and 4 as discussed above with a change in the inverter duty cycle as a method of controlling the output. This is discussed in the specification in detail in the paragraph before the final paragraph. My requested claims are attached. I somehow overlooked these claims in the original application.

Referring to SN 10/642,944: Here also, claims 2 and 3 are combined into claim 1 for a single independent claim. I would like to request that only claim 2 be merged in to claim 1 to form an independent claim and claims 3 and 4 be left as dependent on claim 1. The novelty being the placing the light sensing device within the ballasting circuitry housing and using a fiber optic to conduct the light into the ballast from an external source. I have not seen this done in any references or in the marketplace for that matter.

Thank you for the continuing considerations of my applications, I will call you as suggested by Mr. Marrs so we may resolve any further questions.

Yours very truly,

C. R. 'Steve' Stevens
Inventor

SN 10/6A2, 993

9. A gas discharge lighting system comprising:
- one or more gas discharge lighting devices;
 - an AC source of input power;
 - an electronic ballasting circuit having a regulated direct current requirement coupled between said one or more gas discharge lighting device and said source of input power comprising:
 - an alternating-to-direct current conversion means;
 - a power regulator connected to said alternating-to-direct current conversion means for converting its output to said regulated direct current required for generating said ballasting circuit;
 - a controllable output direct current to alternating current inverter that operates with a adjustable duty cycle substantially square wave output at a frequency above that of audible sound;
 - an impedance network interposed between said inverter and said one or more gas discharge lighting devices consisting of at least one resonating inductor and one capacitor to modify the duty cycle the said substantially square wave output of said inverter to provide a proper operation of said one or more gas discharge lighting devices; and
 - a controlling device for controlling the frequency and/or the duty cycle said inverter and, via said impedance network, thereby providing the amount of power delivered to said one or more gas discharge lighting devices.
10. An electro luminescent lighting system comprising:
- one or more electro luminescent panels;
 - an AC source of input power;
 - an electronic ballasting circuit having a regulated direct current requirement coupled between said one or more electro luminescent panels and said source of input power comprising:
 - an alternating-to-direct current conversion means;
 - a power regulator connected to said alternating-to-direct current conversion means for converting its output to said regulated direct current required to operate said ballasting circuit;
 - a controllable output direct current to alternating current inverter that operates with a adjustable duty cycle substantially square wave output;
 - an impedance network interposed between said inverter and said one or more electro luminescent panels comprising of at least one inductor resonating with the capacitance of said one or more electro luminescent panels to modify the square wave output of said inverter to provide proper operation of said one or more electro luminescent panels; and
 - a controlling device that adjusts the frequency and/or the duty cycle said inverter and thus, via said impedance network, the amount of power delivered to said one or more electro luminescent panels.